

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 02163 080614Z  
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR, UR  
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN LENINGRAD OBLAST

1. SUMMARY. LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA ON AUGUST 2 PRINTED ITS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT COMPARING CITY AND OBLAST PERFORMANCE IN FULFILLING THE FIVE YEAR PLAN THIS YEAR WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977. IT ALSO SUMMARIZED A MEETING ON AUGUST 1 OF FIRST SECRETARIES OF CITY AND OBLAST RAIONS TO DISCUSS FULFILLMENT OF AGRICULTURAL TARGETS, WHICH WAS ADDRESSED BY OBLAST FIRST SECRETARY AND POLITBURO MEMBER ROMANOV. THE INTENSE INTEREST OF LENINGRAD POPULATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCE OF THE REGION, AND HOW IT COMPARES WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE USSR AND THE WORLD, WAS EVIDENT FROM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AT JULY 31 LECTURE. SPECIALISTS IN SOVIET AGRICULTURE MAY FIND SOME OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THESE VARIOUS SOURCES OF UTILITY IN THEIR RESEARCH. IN GENERAL, AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK IS SUBSTANTIALLY MORE FAVORABLE THAN IT WAS SOME WEEKS AGO. END SUMMARY.

2. ENTASS REPNDT ON MEETING OF PARTY OFFICIALS ADDRESSED BY ROMANOV NOTED THAT "GOOD HARVEST OF GRAIN, POTATOES, VEGETABLES, AND FODDER CROPS IS RIPENING ON OBLAST FIELDS.  
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TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FAVORABLE CONDITIONS OF LAST TEN DAYS OF JULY, EVERYWHERE THE HAY, SILAGE AND CEREAL GRASSES ARE BEING BROUGHT IN." BUT CAMPAIGN NOTABLY FOR FODDER IS GOING BADLY ON MANY STATE FARMS, WHICH HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OVERCOME DELAYS CAUSED BY EARLIER BAD WEATHER. AS A RESULT,"ON AUGUST 1 RESERVES OF FODDER IN THE OBLAST WERE ONLY ONE THIRD OF THE YEARLY REQUIREMENTS."

CADRES ARE BEING EXHORTED TO ORGANIZE DOUBLE-SHIFT WORK,  
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INCREASE FODDER PRODUCTION BY SUCH MEANS AS SECOND CUTTING  
OF GRASS, AND MAKE PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE LENINGRAD  
STUDENTS FROM HIGH SCHOOLS, TEKHNIKUMS AND PROFESSIONAL  
VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN EARLY AUGUST AND TO DEMONSTRATE  
CONCERN FOR THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS WHILE ENGAGED IN  
AGRICULTURAL WORK.

3. ACCORDING TO SEMI-ANNUAL STATISTICS, SPRING SOWING  
PLANS WERE OVER-FULFILLED IN LENINGRAD OBLAST IN ALL  
CATEGORIES. 407.8 THOUSAND HECTARES WERE PLANTED OF  
WHICH 70.7 THOUSAND IN GRAIN, 47.6 THOUSAND IN POTATOES,  
11.1 THOUSAND IN VEGETABLES AND 278.4 THOUSAND IN FODDER  
CROPS. COMPARING NUMBERS OF ANIMALS THIS YEAR AND LAST,  
CATTLE OVER-ALL HAVE INCREASED TO 457.3 THOUSAND HEAD  
OF WHICH 212.8 THOUSAND ARE COWS; PIGS HAVE INCREASED TO  
588.8 THOUSAND; AND CHICKENS TO 11.999 MILLION. MEAT  
PRODUCTION INCREASED OVER THE 1977 FIRST HALF YEAR  
FIGURE BY 7 PERCENT, MILK BY 2 PERCENT AND EGGS BY 13  
PERCENT. NORM FOR SIX MONTHS MILK PRODUCTION PER COW  
WAS 1,683 KILOS OF MILK OR 3,366 PER YEAR AT THIS RATE.  
GOVERNMENT PURCHASES OF CATTLE AND FOWL INCREASED (IN  
LIVE WIEGHT) BY 6 PERCENT TO 84.2 THOUSAND TONS -- BUT  
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A NUMBER OF STATE FARMS DID NOT FULFILL THEIR PLANS FOR  
MEAT SALES TO THE STATE; MILK INCREASED BY 3 PERCENT TO  
355.7 THOUSAND TONS; AND EGGS BY 10 PERCENT TO 456.6  
MILLION. INVESTMENT IN LENINGRAD AND ITS OBLAST ROSE  
BY 9 PERCENT OVER 1977 TO REACH 145 MILLION RUBLES.

4. IN HIS ANSWERS TO LISTENERS' QUESTIONS ON JULY 31,  
LECTURER KHARIMOV PRODUCED A MYRIAD OF COMPARATIVE  
STATISTICS, (MOST REPORTED BY AIRGRAM). IN OVER-ALL  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, LENINGRAD OBLAST RANKS 28TH  
IN RSFSR WITH ITS OUTPUT VALUED AT 836 MILLION RUBLES.  
IT RANKS 6TH, HOWEVER, IN VEGETABLE PRODUCTION --  
WHICH IS SHOCKING COMMENTARY ON PRODUCTION ELSEWHERE.

5. THE LECTURER'S COMMENTS ON OVER-ALL GRAIN PRODUCTION  
WERE PERHAPS HIS MOST INTERESTING. HE GAVE FIGURES FOR  
THE COST OF PRODUCING ONE TON OF GRAIN ON COLLECTIVE AND  
STATE FARMS, SHOWING THE GREAT DISPARITY BETWEEN THE  
UKRAINE (47-48 RUBLES) AND CENTRAL ASIA (140-175 RUBLES).  
AND DISCUSSING THE OUTLOOK FOR THIS YEAR'S GRAIN CROP,  
HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT AT ALL BAD. IT IS TOO EARLY TO  
MAKE FIRM PREDICTION HE SAID, GIVEN UNCERTAINTY OF VITAL

KAZAKHSTAN CROP, BUT IT APPEARS PROBABLE THAT CROP WILL  
BE IN 230 MILLION TON RANGE. BUCHANAN

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